This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for obtaining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses an external network from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

receiving by an external server on ~~the~~ an external network a request for information from an Internet user through ~~the~~ a proxy server;

determining by the external server that the request for information is through the proxy server;

redirecting by the external server the request for information to an internal server of ~~the~~ a private network, wherein the internal server ~~determining~~ determines the geographic location of the Internet user by selecting the geographic location of the Internet user from one or more determined geographic locations based at least in part on a confidence level associated with respective determined geographic locations;

receiving by the external server the geographic location of the Internet user from the internal server within the private network; and

using the geographic location of the Internet user in handling the request for information received from the Internet user.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the external network is Internet.

3.   (Amended)   A method for determining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses an external network from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

receiving a request for the geographic location of ~~the~~ an Internet user within ~~the~~ a private network, the request originating from ~~the~~ an external network outside of the private network;

detecting that the request for the geographic location of the Internet user was redirected from the external network;

determining the geographic location of the Internet user by selecting the geographic location of the Internet user from one or more determined geographic locations based at least in part on a confidence level associated with respective determined geographic locations;

storing the geographic location of the Internet user and ~~based on~~ an internal address associated with the Internet user ~~and~~ in a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the private network, such that the geographic location of the Internet user can later be determined based on the internal address of the Internet user by accessing the geographic location/internal IP address mapping table; and

sending the geographic location of the Internet user to the external network.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein receiving the request for the geographic location originating from the external network comprises receiving the request from a machine associated with the Internet user.

5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein determining the geographic location comprises~~ further comprising:

determining an internal address of the Internet user;

storing the geographic location of the Internet user mapped to the internal address of the Internet user in a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the private network; and

accessing ~~a~~ the geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the private network, in order to later determine the geographic location of the Internet user based on the internal address of the Internet user.

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7.   (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein sending the geographic location to the external network comprises:

sending the geographic location to an external server on the external network; and

redirecting a machine associated with the Internet user to the external server.

Claims 8-12 (Canceled).

13.   (Currently Amended) A method for an external server to ~~obtaining~~ obtain a geographic location of a user that accesses an external network from an internal network through a proxy server, comprising:

receiving by an external server on ~~the~~ an external network a request for information from a user through ~~the~~ a proxy server;

determining by the external server that the request for information is through the proxy server;

redirecting by the external server the request for information to an internal server of ~~the~~ an internal network;

determining by the internal server an internal network address of the user;

determining a geographic location of the user by selecting the geographic location of the user from one or more determined geographic locations based at least in part on a confidence level associated with respective determined geographic locations;

~~using~~ storing the geographic location of the user and the internal network address of the user in a geographic location/internal network address mapping table such that ~~to determine~~ the geographic location of the user can later be determined based on the internal network address of the user by accessing the geographic location/internal network address mapping table; and

sending the geographic location of the user to the external server on the external network.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the internal network and the external network are both IP networks.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of using by a computer on the external network the geographic location of the user in processing the request for information.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the user is one of a plurality of users on the internal network that accesses the external network using a first external network address of the proxy server.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user is one of a plurality of users on the private network that accesses the external network using a first external network address of the proxy server.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the user is one of a plurality of users on the private network that accesses the external network using a first external network address of the proxy server.